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MODESTY AIRED.

Sad Story of Boys And a Stern Doctor.

MADE THEM TAKE OFF THEIR SHIRTS

Voluminous Correspondence of the Board of Education Laid Bare.

A TEMPEST IN A TEAPOT has been stirred up over the physical examination of the school boys at Kahuhanu School. It appears that certain of the youngsters under the care of Principal Townsend were compelled by Dr. Howard to take off their upper clothing in the presence of each other, and over this there has been written enough correspondence to clothe any one of these youngsters from head to foot.

Principal Townsend has written Superintendent Atkinson telling of the dreadful outrage and Superintendent Atkinson has passed the buck to Dr. Wood. It has been returned with compliments and much rhetoric on many foolscap sheets by Dr. Wood, and Dr. Howard has come forth and delivered himself at length on the subject. The whole matter was brought up before the Board of Education at its meeting yesterday and an hour or more was occupied in reading the voluminous correspondence. As the matter is of considerable interest, the entire correspondence is herewith reproduced:

THE FIRST GUN EPistolARY.

This is Mr. Townsend's first letter calling attention to the matter: Kahuhanu School, Oct. 10, 1900. Mr. A. T. Atkinson, Superintendent of Public Instruction. Sir: Dr. Howard came this morning to examine the pupils of this school for the required health certificates, and he and I developed some difference of opinion as to what decency required in the premises. I held that pupils should be examined alone, and he wished a whole class to strip off the waist and stand in the room together while one by one they were further stripped and examined. Although on his representation that that is the method employed in the High School and all other schools of the city, I offered to yield under protest and have the work go on, he preferred to wait that I might get instructions on the matter. I now await your orders.

All that I asked of Dr. Howard in the matter of the boys I asked of Dr. Cleveland for the girls and she informed me that this was a matter of course, and that the examination would have been conducted as I wished it without my mentioning the matter, all of which I fully believe.

Yours very truly,

HENRY S. TOWNSEND, Principal of Kahuhanu School.

ATKINSON'S REPLY.

Here is what Mr. Atkinson said to Dr. Wood:

October 11th, 1900.

Dr. C. B. Wood, Board of Health.

Sir: Permit me to call your attention to the enclosed copy of a communication received yesterday from Mr. Townsend, principal of the Kahuhanu School, relative to a difference of opinion between Dr. Howard and himself as to the proper method of conducting the medical examination of pupils required by your Board.

Assuming the facts to be substantially as stated, it appears to me that the position taken by Mr. Townsend in the premises is reasonable and right.

Young people—children, if you please—within the compulsory school age, six to fifteen years, have rights in a matter of this kind that should be respected, and which it is the duty of this Department to protect. Such feelings of delicacy, not to say decency, as school children may possess and manifest, should be respected and encouraged rather than ignored and trampled on. The adverse influence in this community is quite strong enough without receiving any aid or encouragement from official action.

It should be remembered that the periodical examinations of pupils in the Government schools, however proper or necessary, is by no means a popular measure with either children or parents. It is, therefore, very desirable that such examination should be conducted in such a way as to avoid unnecessary friction and afford no reasonable ground for complaint.

I confess myself somewhat surprised at the statement attributed to Dr. Howard, that the method he proposed to employ at Kahuhanu was the same as was employed in the High School and all other schools in the city. I think there must be some mistake somewhere. Both the principal and vice principal state that the method followed in conducting the medical examination in that school is quite different from that described by Mr. Townsend.

Yours faithfully,

ALATAU T. ATKINSON, Superintendent of Public Instruction.

DR. WOOD'S COMMON SENSE.

And here followeth Dr. Wood's reply to Mr. Atkinson:

October 17th, 1900.

Alatau T. Atkinson, Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Sir: Your communication of October 11th in re the regular examination of children at the beginning of the school year, is at hand. The truth of your remarks concerning decency and propriety in conducting the examination is so manifest as to require no discussion. The thorough examination of the children who attend the public schools in this country is a matter of public necessity, a necessary



GAS-TANK BOB I am the only man in Hawaii who knows anything about military tactics. CHORUS OF THE POWERS—For heaven's sake come and command our armies.

amination is required is well known to all parents who have children of the school age, together with the fact that they have the option of having the examination conducted in private by their own family physician.

There may be a few cases where the fee for such examination, which I believe is universally one dollar, is the only reason why the certificate is not secured before the opening of the school year, but this can not be true in the great majority of cases, especially as most physicians would readily forego the fee in cases where the families could not afford to pay it, so that the conclusion must be drawn that the objection of parents to having their children examined at the school is not so great as to be prohibitory.

You do not appreciate that an examination, the principal object of which is to detect leprosy in the earlier stages, is not satisfactory unless the entire body is examined.

In order to make the examination thorough enough to be of any value and at the same time rapid enough to be finished in anything approaching a reasonable time, some plan must be adopted to avoid unnecessary delay and waste of time. This can only be done with the good-will and assistance of the teachers, and certainly cannot be accomplished when they not only refuse assistance but actually obstruct the physician in the performance of his necessary and not particularly agreeable duty.

Now as to the impropriety in the examinations, I do not believe that there is any impropriety, and there certainly should be no indecency in a lot of boys stripping to the waist in each other's company, nor do I believe that the boys should consider it. I venture to say that those same boys strip to a still greater degree in each other's presence when they go swimming after school. Dr. Howard tells me that he always takes the boys separately behind a screen or some other object when requiring them to further disrobe.

I do not believe it is necessary in order that the examination be conducted with decency and propriety, that every boy be taken in a room by himself before removing any article of clothing, nor do I consider it necessary to have the whole room strip to the waist before the examination begins. I believe that intelligent co-operation between the teacher and the physician should in all cases result in the examination being conducted expeditiously and with all due regard for propriety.

I enclose a copy of Dr. Howard's report upon the episode at the Kahuhanu School.

I am yours very sincerely,

C. B. WOOD, President Board of Health.

THE PARTING SHOT.

Dr. Howard thought it incumbent upon

livered himself as follows:

October 15th, 1900.

Dr. C. B. Wood, President Board of Health.

Dear Doctor: On Tuesday and Wednesday, the 9th and 10th insts., I visited Kahuhanu School for the purpose of examining and vaccinating the boys.

On Tuesday I took the two lower rooms and was interfered with by the Superintendent, Mr. Townsend, who stated before the children that I had no right to insist on vaccination and that it should not be done at the schools, as the Board of Education had nothing to do with the same. He also stated that I would get my just dues, if the parents would sue me for damages and that if his child was one of them he certainly would do so.

The children, or rather a few, were very chattering, and Mr. Townsend finally said that, if he followed his inclination, he would take his teachers and leave the building and let me get along as best I could, to which I replied that in that case I would leave also.

On the following day I asked for the highest classes first. One room was brought down into the hall and one boy sent into the office at a time to undress and be examined and then dress, which took over five minutes.

I asked that all the boys from one room be sent in at one time, and that they strip to the waist and then I could examine them, one at a time, behind the desk or table, to which Mr. Townsend replied that he could not submit to that method in his school, as he considered it indecent for all the boys to be stripped to the waist at once.

I said that this way would take me nearly a month for his school alone, and that I could not and would not give the time from my other work, and that not one person (teacher or pupil) had objected before.

Mr. Townsend said that if he as a boy had been compelled to submit to that method of examination he would have been greatly ashamed and embarrassed, to which I replied that I leave the matter to the Board of Health to settle. He then stated that the Board of Health had nothing at all to say about the method of making such examinations, but that it must be done to suit the Superintendent of Public Instruction, whose authority in this matter over me I do not recognize, and so stated.

He then said he would submit, if I insisted, but under protest, and he would make a complaint. I then left the school, and shall await further instructions from the Board of Health.

I beg to remain, yours truly,

HENRY W. HOWARD, City Physician.

TOWNSEND FIRES AGAIN.

Whereupon Mr. Townsend closed the incident like this:

Mr. A. T. Atkinson, Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Sir: My attention has been called to a passage in Dr. Howard's letter to the president of the Board of Health relative to the examination and vaccination of children in this school, which seems to call for explanation. Shortly after Dr. Howard's first visit Mrs. John Markham came to me to talk about her children. She said that she did not wish her children vaccinated in the school, but if it must be done she wished to have her regular family physician attend to the matter. I told her that I had nothing to do with the matter of vaccination, but supposed she would have to have it done. She asked me to report to her if such was the case, and not to have the children vaccinated in school.

I reported the conversation to Dr. Howard, and he agreed that the children should not be vaccinated here. Later he did vaccinate these children, and seemed to me make light of the matter when I told him what he had done. As there was a good deal of confusion in the room, owing to a kind of a panic which his work had produced upon the little fellows, I assumed that the vaccination in general, but only with reference to the vaccination of the Markham boys. This Dr. Howard will be able to recall.

As to the threat that I would make complaint of his manner of examining the pupils, the doctor probably inferred this from my using the word "protest." What I said was that on his representation that the pupils of the High School and all the other schools had been examined in the manner he wished, I would submit to, but under protest, as I did not consider it proper.

I am pleased to note that Dr. Wood does not consider it necessary that the boys be stripped to the waist all together, as this is what I did not consider proper, and it was on this point that Dr. Howard and I differed.

Yours very truly,

HENRY S. TOWNSEND, Principal.

And hereafter the small boy, after reading all the above, will realize the enormity of his offense if he exhibits himself unclad to his fellows, swimming parties will be kept up in the bathtub with the door locked, and at intervals of one mile

PLUMBING TRUST.

Law's Machinery Is In Motion Now.

ANOTHER STRIKING CASE OF "HOLD UP"

Harry Juen is Charged Excessive Prices by the Local Combine.

The thieving plumbing trust must go. The people have spoken. Now comes the law. United States District Attorney Baird has sent to the Department of Justice at Washington asking for its instructions as to the cases about to be brought against the plumbing trust.

EACH day develops new instances of the manner in which the plumbing trust is holding up the people of Honolulu. The people of the city are thoroughly aroused against this conspiracy to hold them up for their money on the part of this group of men who, in the belief that there was no chance of their illegal and outrageous practices being brought to light have been daily feathering their own nests at the expense of the community.

The people are taking up the Advertiser's fight against the trust gladly, realizing that the more publicity that is given the machinations of the trust the sooner they will be rid of it for good and all.

The latest revelation of the manner in which the individuals of the trust have been in the habit of holding up the people in their dealings with customers, comes from Harry Juen, who tells his own story of his sorry experience as follows:

HARRY JUEN'S EXPERIENCE.

Editor Advertiser—When I was ready to start my plumbing job at the Fountain saloon I first thought of letting it out to the lowest bidder, but as I had had considerable work done by Gehring & Butzke in the past, I thought they would do the square thing.

They put a man on the job who would go down town for dinner and return two or three hours later. Still, I was charged full time. The job is a small one, but they managed to put in twenty-one and a half days. Those that are able to judge say it should have been done quite easily in twelve days. There is a job right alongside of me, where twice as much work was done in twenty-six days. I know of another job, the same work as mine, where far better work was done, and a great deal more fixings were used, for less money than mine.

I protested to Gehring about his man losing so much time, and asked if I had to pay for it. He said he would make it all right, but when his bill came there was no discount.

Those that have seen the kind of work done and the material furnished for \$419.03 say it is a fraud from start to finish.

They have charged me double prices for many fixings. I invite the town to inspect the work they have done for the above money. The job has been out of order since the day they left it, July 3.

I pointed out the cheap work they had done but got no satisfaction. Those that are able to judge this kind of work say the job should not have cost a cent over \$250 to \$300. I have paid \$300 on account already. I have tried to have them come up and put the leaking closet in order, but to no avail. A few days after they had finished the job a small lead pipe burst. They sent a Portuguese boy up. He was not over thirty minutes on the job, but they charged me three and a half hours for the boy's work, \$3.50. I have protested against the way they have charged me for the time their plumber lost, but it's of no use. He went down town one day about 1 p. m., after something and returned at 5 o'clock. When he saw I had Muller, the locksmith, fixing over the work he had done, he said that he was done with the job, right there. He said there was too much plumber's work in this town to take water for any one. I felt at the time I was being imposed upon, but what could one do? I was losing lots of money every day I was out of business, and so there was no alternative.

HARRY JUEN.

Following is Mr. Juen's bill, showing the outrageous charges made for the work:

Honolulu, H. I., Aug. 31, 1900.

Mr. Harry Juen.

To GEHRING & BUTZKE, Dr.

Plumbing and Gas Fitting.

1 Brick Grease Trap \$ 15 00

1 Flat Back Urinal 11 25

1 Oak Tank 7 00

1 N. P. Supply Pipe, 4, 2 1/2; N. P. Washers, 25c 2 50

1 Closet Complete 25 00

1 Closet Complete except seat 22 25

1 1/2 inch Ld. Hose Btbb 1 25

5 1/2 inch Ld. H. Stop Cock 6 25

1 1/2 N. P. Strap 25

1 1/2 inch N. P. Strap 15

6 2 inch Brass Ferrules 1 50

2 4 inch Brass Clean Outs, \$2.50; 4

2 inch Brass Clean Outs, \$2.50 5 00

2 2 inch Brass Solder Nipples, \$1.50;